

To Compel with Armed Force:

A Staff Ride Handbook for the Battle of Tippecanoe

Major Harry D. Tunnell IV



FOREWORD

By TRADOC regulation, the Combat Studies Institute (CSI), located within the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, has the mission to assist units and agencies Army-wide with development and execution of staff rides. In conjunction with this mission, CSI publishes a series of staff ride guides that, to date, include such specific engagements as the Revolutionary War Battle of the Cowpens and the Civil War battles of Chickamauga and Wilson's Creek. Other guides for Vicksburg, the Sioux Wars, Pea Ridge, Bentonville, and the 1864 Overland Campaign are in various stages of preparation.

In this latest addition to the staff ride guide series, Major Harry D. Tunnell IV examines the Battle of Tippecanoe, an engagement that occurred in 1811 in the Indiana Territory. The battle pitted the Regular and militia forces of William Henry Harrison, the governor of the territory, against the warriors of Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief who was attempting to create an Indian tribal confederacy with British support. In keeping with other CSI staff ride guides, Tunnell offers a narrative and analytical account of the battle, the events and issues leading up to it, and its ramifications for U.S. history. He follows this with a detailed plan that officers today can adopt for conducting a staff ride at the site of the battle. The result is an excellent blend of written history and field instruction that enables participating officers to grapple with historical events and critical decisions while standing on the very sites where those events unfolded and decisions were made.



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March 2000

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*Photo: Jerry Keenan, Encyclopedia of American Indian Wars:
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You will approach and order him to disperse, which he may be permitted to do, on condition of satisfactory assurances that in future he shall not assemble or attempt to assemble any number of Indians, armed or hostile in attitude. If he neglects or refuses to disperse he will be attacked and compelled to it by the force under your command. He will probably in that case be taken prisoner. His adherents should be informed that in any case they shall hereafter form any combination of a hostile nature, and oblige the government to send an armed force against them, they will be driven beyond the great waters, and never again permitted to live within the Jurisdictional limits of the United States.

—William Eustis, Secretary of War, *letter to Governor Harrison*

CONTENTS

Illustrations	vii
Tables.....	ix
Acknowledgments.....	xi
I. Introduction.....	1
II. Expansion into the Northwest Territory	7
III. Tippecanoe Campaign.....	31
IV. Tippecanoe Battle.....	59
V. Battlefield Staff Ride.....	87
Appendixes	
A. Training and Doctrine	107
B. U.S. Order of Battle	127
C. Chronology	139
D. Biographical Sketches	145
E. Meteorological Data	157
Glossary.....	163
Bibliography	165

ILLUSTRATIONS

Maps

1. Treaty of Fort Wayne	16
2. Route, Tippecanoe campaign	43
3. Plan of encampment, 6 November 1811	63
4. Tippecanoe campaign	89
5. Tippecanoe battle, 7 November 1811	94
6. Interior movements, Tippecanoe battle, 7 November 1811	102

Figures

1. Regulation camp organization	115
2. Infantry task organization, 6–7 November 1811	128
3. Mounted elements task organization, 6–7 November 1811	128

TABLES

1. Campaign analysis, levels of war	45
2. Campaign analysis, operational design	47
3. Tactical analysis, elements of combat power	76
4. U.S. casualties, Tippecanoe battle	134
5. Meteorological data, Tippecanoe campaign	158

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